

# San Francisquito Creek Watershed Enhancement Program

San Francisquito Watershed Council, a Project of Acterra



*A group of volunteers stand near a pile of invasive plants they pulled near Manhattan Avenue in East Palo Alto.*

## Award Amount

\$250,225

## Watershed

San Francisquito Creek Watershed

## County

San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

## CALFED Region

Bay Region

## Legislative Districts

US Congress: 14 and 15

State Assembly: 21, 22, and 24

State Senate: 8, 11, and 15

## Purpose

To update the Watershed Management Plan and conduct an education and outreach program for the San Francisquito Creek Watershed.

## Project Goals

- Update the Draft Watershed Management Plan for San Francisquito Creek.
- Expand the community education, outreach, and monitoring program.
- Produce a Creek and Watershed Map of Palo Alto and South Peninsula.

## Benefits to the CALFED Program

*The San Francisquito Creek watershed is located in Palo Alto and drains to the San Francisco Bay. This project provides multiple benefits to the CALFED Program including improving water quality, controlling invasive species, protecting endangered species and their habitat, and expanding public outreach. San Francisquito Creek supports one of the South Bay's last viable runs of steelhead, a species of concern to the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Implementation of this project helps to ensure steelhead survival in the watershed. The project addresses constituents of concern to the Water Quality Program by controlling urban runoff and conducting creek clean-ups. The project's education and outreach component educates citizens about watershed processes and encourages them to make responsible land use decisions.*

## Project Overview

The San Francisquito Creek Watershed is located in the South Bay, runs through the city of Palo Alto, and drains to the Bay-Delta. The watershed is home to several important species, including red-legged frogs, and is one of the last viable steelhead runs in the South Bay. The San Francisquito Creek Watershed Enhancement Program is a three-step process to more effectively educate and engage citizens in the watershed to make good decisions regarding watershed management and conservation.

The first step revises the Draft Watershed Management Plan for San Francisquito Creek, originally drafted in 1997, to address new issues. These include an infestation of Chinese mitten crabs in the creek and pollutants such as urban pesticides, manure from horse stables, and silt from development. The updated plan also outlines goals and priorities for pollution prevention, flood and erosion control, land use, social issues, and education and outreach.

The second task is the implementation of the Stewardship Program and Streamkeepers Program. Streamkeepers is a watershed-wide outreach program that educates the community about the importance of creek health, builds local involvement, increases watershed awareness, encourages stewardship activities, and expands public involvement in watershed management. The program centerpiece is Saturday workdays that invite citizens, local businesses, and schools to participate in creek clean-ups, removal of nonnative invasive plant species, and native plant revegetation.

The project's last step is the production and distribution of a Creek and Watershed Map of Palo Alto and South Peninsula, depicting the surface water and hydrology of the area. This easy-to-use map will provide public access information about the urban watershed and will be used for environmental education curriculum on school fieldtrips and in classroom presentations.



*Volunteers hard at work planting vegetation along the riverbank.*

## Contact Information

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